

REMARKS

The Applicant requested an interview and as, a time saving measure requested the opportunity to submit amendments unofficially for the Examiner's consideration and discussion. At the proposed interview the Examiner consented and the claims were sent informally for his review. After he had reviewed them, the Examiner called the undersigned attorney and stated that he believed that the further amended claims still did not overcome the prior art previously cited or newly cited. When the Examiner indicated that some of the claims used language that sounded like method claim language, the attorney for the applicant asked if the Examiner would consider method claims in this case. The Examiner responded that he was not sure, but he thought that such claims might be patentable and it was agreed that a method claim would be drafted and sent informally to the Examiner. The Examiner made some suggestions about the claim but said that in general he felt that the concept was correct and, if the claim were clarified, it could form the basis for allowance of some method claims. The attorney for the applicant then suggested that at that stage it was time to file an amendment of record and the Examiner agreed. This amendment is the product of that relatively efficient process..

The attorney for the applicant wishes to express his appreciation to the Examiner who has been very helpful in trying to resolve objections which were raised and has been generous in several telephone interviews, most of which were relatively short, the longest being less than twenty minutes and the other about ten. If we are able to avoid appeal saving the Examiner's time as well as the applicant's money and avoiding the further expenditure time at the Board of Appeals, it would appear to be a model of how to effectively resolve relatively substantial differences to everyone's benefit. The applicant and her attorney are most appreciative of the Examiner's efforts and suggestions.

Submitted herewith are five new method claims which if found allowable by the Examiner will allow the applicant to cancel claims heretofore filed in the application and presently on appeal, these are claims 26 to 30. Also, there is an additional claim which was not discussed with the Examiner during an interview, but is directed to a kit for decorating a table top. This approach has been successfully used by the attorney for the applicant in a number of applications directed to systems. If found allowable as filed or allowable as modified in specified respects, such a claim could be very helpful to the applicant in a patent

which the applicant hopes to exploit commercially, probably through licensing.

The method claims are kept in terms of a method for decorating a table. The steps are those which need to be taken the applicant's table covering to assemble the pieces and display them on a table in a decorative way. The steps are simple and easily understood and have been discussed at some length in prosecution of the application.

There are only five claims. These are necessary because claims need to be provided for the situation in which there is a single piece tie as opposed to the use of multiple pieces in the tie connected in series. Use of multiple pieces necessitates multiple connections of adjacent ends of the serial pieces of the tie, whereas only one such connection is required of a tie made of a single piece of material. The connections are also basically of two types: one where the ends of the material are used themselves to make the connection by tying them together preferably in a bow, and the other where an additional fastener is employed to connect adjacent ends, preferably a decorative connector of some kind would be used to connect the adjacent ends together.

In making the connections, the tie is left slack and loose when it is placed in position on the table so as to drape below the table top at least between loop extensions and so that it can also be viewed from a position along a side of the table higher than the top throughout its entire length except for the narrow loop extensions which support the tie.

The decorative device used is a table covering smaller than the table top but generally of the same shape so that when placed on the table top it will not cover it. Instead loop extensions are used to reach the edge of the table and provide the means of support and therefore display of the tie or sash around the table. Since the tie is intended to be seen when installed in the loops, it is not drawn tightly under the table where it would not be clearly viewed.

The references use of the ties normally pulls them lightly into the table although some drawings show a tie which in some cases does have the tie relaxed and sagging but these are when the cover is off the table or seat and after in use as a trash bag rather than a table cover. The applicant's use of the tie occurs in a decorative mode of use when the table covering is finally put in place and adjusted to provide a festive. The new method claims, specifically the now clarified claims, distinguish over the references cited by the Examiner. The Examiner suggested that with some clarification in the claim form he would be willing to allow such

method claims. The applicant is willing to cancel all earlier submitted claims if the method claims are allowed.

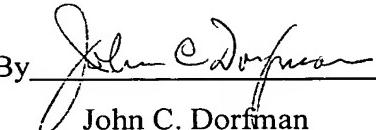
The claims to the kit is submitted to permit the Examiner to consider another aspect of coverage, which if in his view is permissible, would be very helpful to the applicant.

The applicant has not attempted to respond to each and every position taken by the Examiner in the rejection because it appears that there is agreement in principle at least between him and the attorney for the applicant that a patent can be issued on method claims similar to the draft claim informally submitted.

Allowance of the new claims submitted herewith is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

DANN, DORFMAN, HERRELL & SKILLMAN
A Professional Corporation
Attorneys for Applicant(s)

By 
John C. Dorfman

PTO Registration No. 16,703

Telephone: (215) 563-4100
Facsimile: (215) 563-4044